



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUATEMALAN MAN INDICTED FOR CONSPIRING TO TRANSPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Guatemalan man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to transport illegal aliens within the United States.

Gelson Omar Mancilla-Santiago, 22, a citizen of Guatemala, was charged in a two-count superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City. Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Mancilla-Santiago** participated in a conspiracy to operate a business of transporting illegal aliens in the United States. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Mancilla-Santiago** illegally re-entered the United States after having been deported.

Today's superseding indictment replaces a federal indictment that was returned by a grand jury on July 15, 2005.

According to today's indictment, **Mancilla-Santiago** conspired to operate a business of transporting illegal aliens from at least as early as May 2005 to June 19, 2005, in Missouri as well as California and Virginia. The indictment alleges that conspirators arranged to pick up illegal aliens and transport them from one location to another within the United States, charging the illegal aliens a fee for their transportation.

The indictment alleges that **Mancilla-Santiago** was contacted by a person to drive a van from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York. On June 18, 2005, the indictment says, the person who contacted **Mancilla-Santiago** provided him with a van and money, and at least 15 illegal aliens were loaded into the van. **Mancilla-Santiago** allegedly drove the van from Los Angeles to Colorado, then a co-conspirator drove the van. On June 19, 2005, the van entered Missouri.

Today's indictment also includes the charge contained in the original indictment, alleging that **Mancilla-Santiago**, who had been deported from the United States on Oct. 25, 2004, was

found near Columbia, Mo., on June 19, 2005.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Mancilla-Santiago** was involved in a traffic accident that occurred in Boone County on that day. Five persons were killed and 15 injured when the 2001 Chevrolet van in which they were riding crashed near Columbia, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow